

OLD STONE POSTER
(Poe House)
East Main Street
Richmond
Henrico County
Virginia

HABS No. VA-246

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey

Prepared at Headquarters Office
for Virginia District

OLD STONE HOUSE (now the Pee Shrine Foundation)
1916 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia

APPENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Owner: A.P.V.A. Headquarters: John Marshall House, Marshall
and Ninth Streets, Richmond, Virginia.

Date of Erection: 1738 - 1739, according to the notes of
Edward V. Valentine.

Architect:

Builder: Jacob Ege

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: One story and attic story above with dormers.

Materials of Construction: Exterior walls built of brown to grey
sandstone rubble. The chimneys are topped out with brick above
the roof but are believed to have been originally of stone.
Interior walls frame, plastered. Roof covered with slate in-
cluding side walls of dormers. Floors are random width, of pine.
All interior trim and doors painted olive green. Plain base
painted black in all rooms.

Other Existing Records: The following is taken from the
Historical Collection of Virginia, by Henry Howe:

"The Old Stone House is situated on the northern side of Main
Street, a few rods below the market. It is the oldest dwelling
standing in Richmond, and among the first ever built in the town.
..... Mr. Jacob Ege ... was a native of Germany, who settled
upon this spot when there were few or no inhabitants on this
site of the town, and previous to the erection of Byrd's Warehouse.
Mr. Ege had originally intended to have settled further up the
country, but was so well pleased with the place, that he took
up some land for a garden, and built this house. When President
Monroe was a young man, attending school in Richmond, he boarded
here. Mr. Samuel Ege, the father of Mrs. Welsh, (Mrs. Elizabeth
Welsh) resided in this house during the revolution. At that time
it was one of the best houses in Richmond. It has been honored
by the visits of Washington, Jefferson, Lafayette, Madison, Henry,
and other distinguished personages."

In Edward V. Valentine's personal notes, Lot 32 is recorded as follows:

"The Old Stone House was built about 1737 for the name of the builder and first owner, Jacob Ege, a German emigrant, appears as the owner of a lot in the original plan of Major Mayo."

"General and Mrs. Sherras (U. S. census 1790 spell same Sherer) and daughter, Maria Dorothea, came from Herse Castle to Virginia in 1740. The daughter was sixteen. During the trip, Dorothea became engaged to Mr. Ege, one of the passengers on the ship. General Sherar gave a home to his daughter in Richmond, 'The Old Stone House,' on Main Street. It was the fifth house in Richmond."

Jacob Ege owned Lot 33 - N. E. corner Main and 29th Streets as referred to in William Byrd's original Map of Richmond.

The abstract of title records Lot No. 32 as follows: Crown to William Byrd, Sr., on April 20, 1687; William Byrd to William Byrd, II, on July 8, 1700; William Byrd, II, to John Gringrette, recorded June 7, 1741; John Gringrette to Jacob Ege. At Jacob Ege's death in 1762 his property (two lots and houses in Richmond) was left to his wife, Dorothy, with Samuel Ege as heir at law. The property remained in the same family for six generations.

In 1912 the "Old Stone House" was on the verge of being demolished when Granville G. Valentine purchased the building and deeded it as a gift to the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

In 1921 the Edgar Allan Poe Association leased the Old Stone House for the erection of a permanent memorial to Edgar Allan Poe. On May 1, 1934, the name was changed to the Poe Foundation, and a bronze tablet placed on the Old Stone House. Many "Peeanas" in connection with the great poet's life are housed in the old building.

Bibliography:

William Byrd's Original Plan of Richmond, as drawn by the Rev. James Fife in 1742

Personal Notes of Edward V. Valentine

Lawyer's Title Insurance Corporation, Richmond,
Virginia

Order Book, Archives Department of the Virginia
State Library, Richmond, Virginia

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Property Books, City of Richmond, Virginia

Common Hall Record Book I, 1887, City Clerk's Office,
Richmond, Virginia

The Times Dispatch, Saturday, September 15, 1912;
May 1, 1934

Historical Collection of Virginia, by Henry Howe,
Copyright 1845, Charleston, S. C. Published by
Babcock and Company.

Personal Interview with J. H. Whitty, 1621 Brook
Road, Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia Thompson
Historian *per mw*

Approved: August 19, 1936

Eugene Bradbury
MAJOR EUGENE BRADBURY, A.I.A.
District Officer.

Rev. Oct. 7 '36 T.W.

POE HOUSE
East Main Street, Richmond
Henrico County, Virginia

Owner: Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities

Date of erection: Unknown, probably early eighteenth century

Present condition: Good

Description:

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Stone; story and a half; gable roof; inside end-chimneys; front three bays; center door; sash 9/6-light; three irregularly spaced dormers on roof, gabled, 6/6-light sash. Original plan--two unequal rooms; modern partition now creates central hall; stairs ascend from large room at right, which front and rear doors formerly entered.

Author: *W. W. Watkinson*

Approved: *11/27/40*